

## A SMALL COLLECTION OF BEES FROM TASMANIA.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL.

*(Communicated by W. W. Froggatt, F.L.S.)*

Comparatively little is known of the bees of Tasmania, so it may be worth while to report on a small collection sent by Mr. W. W. Froggatt, obtained by the well-known entomologist, Mr. Arthur M. Lea. The specimens bear two sets of numbers, one by Mr. Froggatt, the other by Mr. Lea. I have cited both, placing the Froggatt number first in each case.

(1.) *Callomelitta picta* Smith. Magnet(140, 6456).

(2.) PARASPHECODES EXCULTUS, n.sp. Magnet(134, 6459).

♀. Length about 9 mm.; head, thorax and legs black; abdomen with the second and third segments, and apical part of first very broadly, bright red, the red also extending along the sides of first segment; rest of abdomen black, the fourth segment with a very faint, hardly noticeable, reddish band across the middle, and the broad hind margin slightly brownish; on the ventral side the fourth segment is red at sides except apically; head and thorax with rather long pale hair; some fuscous hair about the ocelli, and fuscous hairs intermixed on face; hair of legs moderately abundant, orange-tinted on inner side of tarsi, purplish-fuscous on outer side of basitarsi; hind femora with a large curled creamy-white floccus; hind tibiæ with shining white hair on inner side, contrasting with the purplish-fuscous behind; flagellum obscurely ferruginous beneath, longitudinally depressed or furrowed; rest of head, and thorax, dullish, minutely rugose; mesothorax rather coarsely rugose-punctate; area of metathorax distinctly defined behind, covered with dense irregular longitudinal rugæ, the wrinkles variously incomplete or anastomosing; tegulæ rufous with a fuscous spot; wings reddish-hyaline, first recurrent nervure meeting second transverso-cubital; outer nervures not weakened;

abdomen shining, with sparse exceedingly minute punctures; apex with dark purplish-fuscous hair, but glittering pale hairs at sides of apical half.

In my Table, in *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, September, 1904, this runs to no species, because the first r.n. meets second t.c., and the red of abdomen is bright. The dark legs separate it at once from *P. lachius* and *P. lithusca*; in the black apex of abdomen it resembles the Tasmanian *P. tuchilas* and *P. tilachus*; but *P. tuchilas* has the hind margins of the first two abdominal segments darkened, and the sculpture is different, while *P. tilachus* has a much darker abdomen. The insect is also quite distinct from the various Australian species, I have described in recent years.

(3.) *Halictus lanarius* Smith. One male. Devenport(138, 10714). *Halictus lanuginosus* Smith, is apparently the same.

(4.) *Paracolletes carinatus*(Smith). One male "Tasmania"(135, 10709). The abdomen is a fine dark blue, instead of green, and the second segment is more closely punctured; but the insect agrees so closely with female *P. carinatus*, that it is safe to regard it as its male.

(5.) *Paracolletes melbournensis* Cockerell. One female. Mt. Wellington(141, 6458).

(6.) *PARACOLLETES LEAI*, n.sp. Ulverstone(139, 10712).

♀. Length about 12 mm.; slender, black, the abdomen obscurely metallic, the fifth segment entirely greenish, the hind margins of the others suffused with reddish-purple; scanty hair of face, sides of thorax, and metathorax, glittering whitish, but dorsally and especially about tubercles fulvous, on vertex fuscous (perhaps some fuscous on mesothorax, but it is apparently denuded); head, thorax and abdomen shining; clypeus shining, with large punctures, and a median ridge, failing on the lowest fourth; mandibles with a red subapical ring, and slightly reddish at apex; a sharp keel between antennæ; flagellum reddish beneath at apex; front with very distinct rather dense punctures, except at sides, where

they are sparse; vertex sparsely punctured; mesothorax shining, with scattered punctures, hardly any in middle; parapsidal grooves very distinct; area of metathorax dullish, with slight oblique striae; mesopleura with sparse punctures, very shiny and practically impunctate posteriorly; tegulae piceous; wings hyaline, a little brownish in the region of the cells; basal nervure meeting transverso-medial, a little to the outer side; first recurrent nervure joining second submarginal cell about the end of its first third; second recurrent joining third submarginal about as far from end as first recurrent from base of second submarginal; stigma piceous, nervures dark fuscous; legs with hairs mostly pale, ferruginous on inner side of anterior tibiae and tarsi, mainly fuscous on middle tibiae and tarsi; long and white on hind femora, creamy-white on inner and posterior side of hind tibiae, but purplish-brown and very strongly plumose behind, pale on inner side of hind basitarsi, but fuscous on anterior edge; abdomen sparsely and feebly punctured, scantily pubescent, without hair-bands; second and third segments with extremely narrow testaceous hind margins; apical hair dark fuscous. Hind spur with long oblique teeth.

A male from King Island(136, 6457) is provisionally referred here, though it may represent a very closely allied but distinct species. It has exactly the same form and appearance as the female, but differs as follows: face much narrower, eyes prominent; face covered with long fulvous hair, but black at sides above; vertex, mesothorax and scutellum with black or dark fuscous hair, but fulvous about tubercles; first recurrent nervure joining second submarginal cell nearer base; first two abdominal segments with much long light hair.

In my Table, in Trans. American Entom. Society, September, 1905, this runs nearest to *P. versicolor*(Sm.), which it resembles in the relatively narrow abdomen of the female, differing, however, by the ridged clypeus, and the very dark smooth (not silky) abdomen. In my Table, in Annals and Magazine of Natural History, January, 1906, it runs to the vicinity of *P. spatulatus*, a considerably smaller, broader species, with various differences. There is a good deal of resemblance to several other species, but it is impossible to identify it with any of them.

I give a check-list of the bees at present known from Tasmania.

## PROSOPIS

- alcyonea*(Erichs.).  
*honesta* Smith.  
*hobartiana* Ckll.  
*vicina* Sichel(in part).

## EURYGLOSSA

- walkeriana* Ckll.

## PARACOLLETES

- chalybeatus*(Erichs.).  
*obscurus*(Smith).  
*viridicinctus* Ckll.  
*obscuripennis* Ckll.  
*hobartensis* Ckll  
*carinatus*(Smith).  
*melbournensis* Ckll.  
*leai* Ckll.

## CALLOMELITTA

- picta* Smith.

## HALICTUS

- orbatus* Smith.  
*cognatus* Smith.  
*limatus* Smith.  
*globosus* Smith.  
*representans* Smith.

## HALICTUS

- familiaris*(Erichs.).  
*warburtoni* Ckll.  
*mittelli* Ckll.  
*burkei* Ckll.  
*lanarius* Smith.  
*tasmaniae*(Ckll.).

## "ANDRENA"(? HALICTUS)

- infima* Erichs.

## PARASPHICODES

- tilachus* Smith.  
*lithusca* Smith.  
*talchius* Smith.  
*stuchila* Smith.  
*altichus* Smith.  
*taluchis* Smith.  
*excultus* Ckll.

## MEGACHILA

- leucopyga* Smith.  
*chrypsopyga* Smith.  
*ordinaria* Smith.

## EXONEURA

- bicolor* Smith.

Although this list is small, Tasmania is evidently much richer in bees than New Zealand. No doubt, many species remain to be discovered, and the local naturalist who will take up the bees in Tasmania will not only have a rich harvest of new forms, but also an opportunity to determine the habits of all the species, nothing having been done in this direction. It will also be very interesting to determine how many of the Australian genera are actually absent from Tasmania, and what proportion of the Tasmanian species is precinctive.